

Short Story Portfolio

*Hannah Jordan*

*Client*

April 14, 2013

*The Cask of Amontillado*

By Edgar Allan Poe

*Revenge* by Dean F. Wilson

All that you do to me I do to you;

For if you hurt me deep, then I will too.

But this dark flame, it rarely ends with that;

An eye for an eye means mortal combat,

For surely if you take one of my eyes,

Then I will take both yours that I despise.

If I am made to limp, you will not walk.

And if you interrupt, you will not talk.

This is the product of a burning fire,

The vengeful will, it's all that I desire.

And then I see the blood upon my hands,

I'm haunted now by vengeful thought's demands.

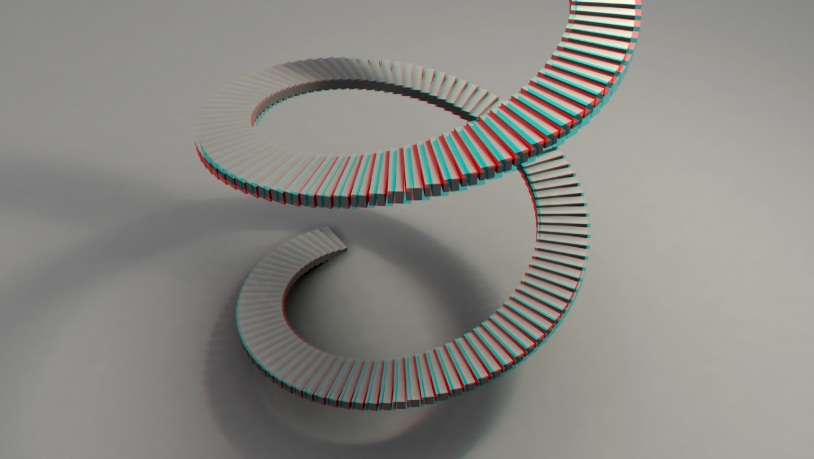
And now I have become Lady Macbeth,

And what has vengeance brought me now but death?

Connection to the Story

This poem, by Dean F. Wilson, illustrates the concept of revenge much like The Cask of Amontillado. The speaker bluntly describes, “ If I am made to limp, you will not walk. And if you interrupt you will not talk.” His feelings on revenge are not that one should return the same level of damage, but that the avenger should damage the one that hurt them to a greater extent. In the Cask of Amontillado, Montressor believes similarly and seeks revenge upon Fortunato. “The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as best I could, but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge… At length I would be avenged; this was a point definitely, settled- but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish, but punish with impunity,” Montressor explains. His actions of killing Fortunato, were justified in his own mind, as it was an act of revenge.

*Taken by Andrew Hazeldon*



Connection to the Story

The photo of a spiraling staircase taken by Andrew Hazeldon is very symbolic of The Cask of Amontillado. The stairs in the photo wind down slowly similarly to the tone of the story as they venture farther and deeper into the catacombs. Both get darked and deeper as they continue downward until the stairs suddenly end, much like Fortunato’s life does.

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Connection to the Story

This poem, by Mark Spencer, exemplifies the good and evil in human beings much like in The Lady or the Tiger. The “nature of good and evil” from the poem, is the underlying theme of Stockton’s story. The princess must choose between good- letting the man she loves live, but having him marry another woman- or evil- picking the tiger and watching him be killed. Spencer’s explanation of the darkness of human nature- “They fuel our greed and selfishness,” is precisely what the princess would be embodying by choosing the tiger or giving in the evil of human nature. Quite literally, in the case of The Lady or the Tiger, “This struggle between right and wrong determines who survives.”

*Good and Evil* by Mark Spencer

The nature of good and evil The sum of every human heart

Is more than black and white. Is measured by this scale.

They are the darkness in our souls, It will bring life to those who learn,

Likewise they are the light. And death to those who fail.

They dwell at human nature's core, Without them there would be no light

And breed virtue and sin. Or darkness in our souls,

They are the fundamental force, No thought of who, or what we are,

Within the hearts of men. No wide eyed dreams or goals.

They fuel our greed and selfishness, Good and evil form our center,

Our pride and vanity, Like the roots of a tree.

They fan the flames of bigotry, They're human nature's architect,

Inciting enmity. They are humanity

They also teach us how to love,

And live righteous lives.

This struggle between right and wrong

Determines who survives.

*The Lady or The Tiger?*

By Frank Stockton

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Photo

This photo of two rubber ducks is a representation of good versus evil much like the Lady or the Tiger. The light duck represents the princess’ decision to save the man and watch him marry another woman keeping him happy, but destroying herself in the process. The demon duck represents the princesses other option to kill the man she loves for her own selfish reason, simply that she did not want the pain of seeing him with another woman.



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*The Most Dangerous Game*

By Richard Connell

*We Have Not Left the Jungle* by Narender Singh Baval

In Bansal’s poem, “We Have Not Left the Jungle”, the author speaks about the ways man is still an animal. “The Most Dangerous Game” also captures this same idea. Man has evolved but is still barbaric and uncivilized in some ways. Zaroff, from Connel’s story represents the barbarousness still in man. Rainsford represents the way man has evolved.

Connection to the Story

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*Photo*



Connection to the Story

The Most Dangerous Game is in part about the role reversal from hunter to huntee. This photo of the bride carrying the groom is a reversal of roles from the traditional woman being carried by the man. This concept is seen in both the story and the picture.

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*Tradition* by Edward Kofi Louis

Tradition is just like one-way traffic over here,

And you can't change the minds of the people around;

For their lives are programmed like a robot.

The law is very difficult for them to obey,

And it is all about a different culture and different people;

But their lives are always programmed like robots.

The tradition over here is very strange to me!

And you can't change the very minds of these people;

But at times, it is just like broken pottery in the hands

Connection to the Story:

Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery” is focused around the tradition of the lottery, and the people of the town being unwilling to end it. Edward Kofi Louis’ poem, “Tradition”, illustrates how tradition controls people’s idea, thoughts, and actions. Louis criticizes traditional people saying, “And you can’t change the minds of the people around; For their lives are programmed like robots,” much like the citizens in “The Lottery”. Jackson’s townspeople refuse the idea of ending their lottery even though it murders another person in the town. The lottery controls their lives- the sense of dread before it, the anxiousness during, and the repercussions of mourning and adapting to their loss after it. “The Lottery” continues tradition much like the people Louis speaks of, “programmed like robots”.

*The Lottery*

By Shirley Jackson

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Photo

One theme of The Lottery is the effect of chance on a person’s life. The picture of dice accurately represents this chance being taken with the lottery. After Tessie finds out it will be a member of her family who “wins”, she begins to argue and yell that her husband was not given long enough to select his slip of paper. A neighbor tries to reason with her, “We all took the same chance.” While this is true, as with anyone who has been negatively affected simply by chance, Tessie tells the town with her final breath how unfair the lottery is. The lottery from the story, like rolling dice, is fair, but not always right.



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*Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been*

By Joyce Carol Oates

*Fear* by OneRepublic

When we were children we'd play

Out in the streets just dipped in fate

When we were children we'd say

That we don't the meaning of

Fear, fear, fear,

Fear, fear, fear

We don't know the meaning of

Fear

Connection to the Story

Joyce Carol Oates’ Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been? follows Connie during the most fear-filled experience of her life. Arnold Friend’s insistence to push her past the barrier between child and adult is persistent and frightening. OneRepublic’s song Fear is about the terror that one cannot understand as a child. In the beginning of the story, Connie does not understand the need to be careful and safe, often running across a highway to go hang out with boys; she is still a child. With the arrival of Arnold Friend at her home, Connie matures and is confronted by fear of this strange man, teaching her the fear she could not previously understand.

*Photo*



Connection to the Story

This collection of three photos of a girl is similar to Connie’s personality and the ways it differs from her home to her when out. Like the girl in the picture, Connie wears a mask. Connie’s mask is an entirely different girl, confident, flirty, and outgoing. Without her mask, at home, Connie is a boring, self-conscious, anxious girl, constantly living in her older sister’s shadow.

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*Orientation*

By Daniel Orozco

Connection to the Story

Daniel Orozco’s “Orientation” is an example of a workplace living out each identical day. The poem “Monotony” is illustrating the dullness of every day. These two writings are very similar in what they suggest about monotony. Every day is boring if it is the same as the last. The workplace in “Orientation” gives extremely detailed instructions to an unknown figure on exactly how to do everything in the office. Each day follows this structure. “Monotony” illustrates this same point, and speaks of how each monotonous day will turn into a monotonous week, then month, then year, then life.

*Monotony* by Constantine P. Cavafy

One monotonous day is followed

by another monotonous, identical day. The same

things will happen, they will happen again --

the same moments find us and leave us.

A month passes and ushers in another month.

One easily guesses the coming events;

they are the boring ones of yesterday.

And the morrow ends up not resembling a morrow anymore.

Photo

This photo of a child in a stapler, while comical, can be related to “Orientation” by its theme of dehumanization. In the story, the office people are simply things that have instructions as to how to operate them. A person is regarded a simply as the office stapler.



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